

II. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-17 remain in the application.
2. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4, 5, 8, 12, and 13 are allowed.
3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 7, 9-11, and 14, 15, and 17 are not anticipated by Rusch (US 6,801,777).

Applicants note that Rusch is not a valid reference because it was filed on November 27, 2001, which is after the priority date of the present application, March 14, 2001.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Rusch and Smith et al. (6,088,732, "Smith") under 35 USC 103(a).

Because Rusch is not a valid reference, the combination of Rusch and Smith fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 6.

5. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is patentable over the combination of Rusch and Lintulampi (6,377,804) under 35 USC 103(a).

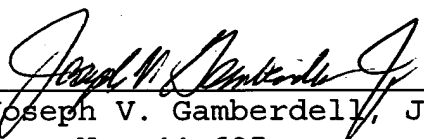
Because Rusch is not a valid reference, the combination of Rusch and Lintulampi fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 16.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior

art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

28 July 2005
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

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